File No. 244

19 31.

Collection No.

(P35)

Mysore Residency

Bangalore.

Pros. / Serial Nos. 1-8

Subject.

Appointment of President, Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

Previous References.

Later References.

DF. 526/45.

S. 97.—(Blue).

MFP—168S&P—(M-184)—11-8-34—60,000.

NOTES AND PRECIS.

FILE No. 244 1931.

Section. File No

Heading. Serial No.

NOTES.

DEPT. BRANCH. Pros. 19 . Nos.

Subject.

Appointment of President, Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

Notes and Orders.

S. 1.

MGIPC—FP—89DCFMis.—(2028)—13 6-25—3,00,000.

Letter No. 1574/31, dated the 22nd May, 1931, from the President, Municipal Commission, Civil & Military Station, Bangalore.

P.U.C.

Filling up the vacancy in the office of President, Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

---

1 Mr. Cooke has applied for a month's leave from the 19th June, 1931 or date of relief (the application is being dealt with separately).

2 The legal provision regarding the holder of the Office of President, Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, is contained in section 16 of the Bangalore Municipal Law which runs:

> "The Office of President shall be held, unless otherwise ordered by the Governor-General in Council, by the District Magistrate for the time being of the Station."

So, unless otherwise ordered by the Government of India, the Officer who is appointed to act as District Magistrate during Mr. Cooke's leave will also be the President of the Municipal Commission.

3 The resolution of the Municipal Commission which is forwarded by the President is, in effect, a request (or a recommendation) addressed to the Government of India. Clause (7) of the resolution contains also a request addressed to the Resident, namely, "that the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore "be requested to kindly forward the above resolution to His "Excellency the Viceroy with his recommendation to the grant- "ing of the prayer of the Commission."

4 In regard to clause (4) of the resolution which says "that this Council is of opinion that such an arrangement "will not be satisfactory to the taxpayer nor to the general "public, particularly as the Acting Commissioner of Police has

has quite recently relieved the permanent Commissioner who has proceeded on leave," it may perhaps be mentioned that the arrangement referred to (if given effect to) will after all be only for one month.

5 Regarding the Government's policy which is referred to in clause (5), the Commission has probably in mind the policy which obtains, not in the Civil & Military Station, but in British Indian Provinces generally.

6 If effect is given to the resolution of the Municipal Commission, this will be the first occasion on which a person other than the District Magistrate for the time being is the President of the Municipal Commission.

7 The present Vice-President of the Commission is Mr.B.G. Rajagopal Mudaliar, whose election to that office was approved in the Residency Notification No. 122, dated the 9th December 1930 (and whose term of office is to expire with the term of the present Commission on the 30th November, 1933).

8 The views of a non-official body like that of the Municipal Commission are entitled to consideration at the hands of the Government. Apparently, the Municipal Commission wish to establish a principle (or a precedent) on this occasion.

Submitted for orders.

K.V. Ramanathan.
26.5.31

Secy. I think you have discussed this with the President.
28/5

A very poor note from Office on an important subject giving me not the slightest assistance in coming to a decision. The Pros and Cons of the Committee's Resolution are not even touched upon, nor am I told on what lines an officer is appointed to be the District Magistrate or how Mr Cooke's acting vacancy would normally be filled.

Can Office suggest, as they should have done, any reasons why the Committee's resolution should not be forwarded to Govt with a favourable recommendation? The under-lying idea is in consonance with the present trend of Govt policy. Does the fact that Bangalore is a military station make any difference? If Office thinks it does, will it please say why? Quote examples from other stations. Generally, will Office please help me to a decision as to whether I should recommend the proposal to Govt or turn it down and if the latter, whether finally or ~~in~~ what ~~method~~.

It may be that I have discussed this matter with others or that I have my own views on the subject, but I cannot, without proper notes from Office pass orders on a matter of this kind.

20.V

In the first place it is respectfully submitted that the question of appointing a successor to Mr. Cooke during his short leave (one month from or after the 19th June) is considered in a separate file, this file being confined to the question of the appointment of acting President of the Municipal Commission, which is referred to in the Commission's Resolution. The proposal in that file is to appoint Mr. R. S. Milton, the Commissioner of Police, to do the duties of the Collector and District Magistrate during the absence of Mr. Cooke.

According to section 16 of the Bangalore Municipal Law,

> "The office of President shall be held, "unless otherwise ordered by the Governor-General "in Council, by the District Magistrate for the "time being of the Station".

Whoever, therefore, is appointed to do the duties of the District Magistrate becomes automatically the President of the Municipal Commission, unless an order to the contrary is made. It may be noted that no specific appointment as President of the Commission is at all required, unless it is proposed to depart from the ordinary rule.

Coming to the Resolution of the Municipal Commission, the following points appear to be in favour of the Resolution:-

(i) The views of a body like that of the Municipal Commission are entitled to respect.

(ii) The underlying idea is, as observed by the Resident, in consonance with the trend of Govt's policy, local self-government being treated, as far as possible, as a non-official affair.

(iii) In the neighbouring British Indian Province

Province of Madras, chairmen of all municipal bodies are non-officials. (It is regretted that information is not available in office, regarding the position in other Administered Areas in Indian States).

It is understood that the President of the Poona Municipality is a non-official.

The question therefore arises, as asked by the Resident, why the Commission's resolution should not be forwarded to the Govt. with a favourable recommendation. With reference to this question, the following circumstances are submitted for consideration:-

(i) This being the first step in the direction of appointing a non-official person as President of the Municipal Commission in Bangalore, some amount of caution is naturally necessary.

(ii) Once the request is complied with, it may be difficult to refuse such requests in future - even though there may then be some grounds for doing so and whether the peiod of future vacancies be short or long. It is also possible to view the Commission's present request (though it may not necessarily be so) as 'the thin end of the wedge!

It is perhaps easier to postpone a reform (which may be considered premature) than to withdraw a privilege once granted. In other words, if the present request is granted, the power reserved to the Govt. of India by section 16 of the Bangalore Municipal Law, will, in practice, become nominal.

(iii) This is the first occasion on which a request of the kind is put forward by the Commission, and perhaps there may be no harm in asking the Commissior (if that is found necessary) to wait for a few years, the Commission being told that the present time is a little inopportune

inopportune or the request a little premature.

(iv) The office of Vice-President is at present held by Mr. B. G. Rajagopal Mudaliyar who was elected to that office only in December last.

(v) The office of President is one which requires some amount of administrative experience and a good deal of tact, if not anything else, and it is perhaps too early to throw the office open to an Indian non-official, in a place like Bangalore which has a large number of Europeans and is the Headquarters of a Military District.

(vi) Resident has asked whether the Military would have to be consulted. Such a consultation is not essential, that is to say, the Military authorities cannot complain if they are not consulted in the matter, but a consultation, at any rate an unofficial one, may perhaps be desirable, if the request of the Municipal Commission is to be complied with. The fact that Bangalore is a Military Station does count, because, for instance, in matters relating to building of new houses in certain areas (which are ordinarily known as 'Military Areas') a clash may easily occur between the views of the President, Municipal Commission and those of the Military, or even between those of the President, Municipal Commission and those of the Residency; and so long as the District Magistrate is also the President of the Municipal Commission matters may go on more smoothly.

On the whole, while it should be admitted that the proposal of the Municipal Commission only represents a natural aspiration, it is perhaps too early to give effect to it. It should not, it seems,

be

be turned down finally but some kind of sympathetic reply may, it is suggested, be given.

The Commission may perhaps be informed that, while the Resident is at all times willing, and even anxious, to view with favour any representation which the Municipal Commission may make to him, he much regrets that, at the present moment, he is unable, in view of the shortness of the period of Mr. Cooke's leave and considerations of administative convenience, to recommend the Commission's present request for the acceptance of the Govt. of India; and that the Resident will bear in mind the Commission's request when an opportunity next presents itself.

(Finally, it is respectfully submitted that the several aspects of the question were not discussed in the original office note because office hesitated to criticise a proposal which involved the Resident's power of recommendation regarding an appointment. The proposal was, in effect, though not in form, to appoint the present Vice-President, Mr. B. G. Rajagopal Mudaliyar as Acting President. A minor reason was that, in the midst of rather heavy work, office did not realise, as it should have, that in important matters of this kind, mere promptness would not suffice. Care will be taken in future).

C. V. Ramanathan.
6.6.31

Secretary.

PTO

Please see from para 11 of the notes.

The only point on which I can be helpful is as to what is the situation elsewhere. I have discussed the matter with Cooke and we agreed that the situation of the Civil and Military Station is unique. Without an exhaustive search and a reference to the Government of India (none of which can I think be accomplished before orders are passed in the present case) I cannot of course say with absolute certainty.

I can however say that in all the big military stations in the N.W.F. - and there few bigger than Peshawar anywhere - the Cantonment is quite separate from the City and is run by a Cantonment Board with the G.O.C. as President and an officer of the Cantonment Magistrate Department as Executive Officer which amounts to Secretary. There are one or two nominated Indian members. These remarks also apply to Quetta.*

*They also apply to Lucknow as I remember it in 1923

It might be thought that there is an analogy in Hyderabad. But the Residency which is six (?) miles from the military cantonment of Secunderabad and even further from Bolarum and Trimulgherry is a separate little entity of its own and there is no municipal commission the least resembling ours.

I put up a draft however so that we can, if you approve, satisfy ourselves for the future.

Although there is no need legally to consult the Military Authorities, Cooke ~~however~~ agrees that it would be most desirable ~~agreeable~~ to do so as their interests are very large and consultations with them are of frequent occurrence. He is also sure that if a sympathetic answer is given to the

effect that the Resident sympathises with the proposal but in view of the shortness of time it is highly improbable that an answer will be forthcoming from the Government of India before June 19th, even if they are addressed by wire, the members will be perfectly satisfied. He goes so far as to say that he thinks some of them will be relieved.

The only possible danger in moving in the matter therefore, and on this too I have consulted Cooke would be that it would be the thin edge of the wedge and that the next step would be to agitate for a non-official President. Cooke, however, has never heard of this point being suggested and he does not think it will arise so long as the Civil and Military Station remains what it is.

Two drafts are submitted for consideration. After passing orders on this file will you kindly see file linked below which is urgent.

Resident

22 I have amended drafts. The rate to collectors camps. I do not like to see my draft torn up I typed up again. Further, have had no

papers on the
Creation of the Cantonment Commission? Was
there never a
Cantonment Board?
Or, a proposal to
have one?

S.C.D.
S.G.

Please say with ref to G above
very early. 9/6

S.C.P.Q.

(Issued letter No.4106, dated the 9th June 1931,
to the President, Municipal Commission).

24 The earliest reference traceable, regarding Municipal administration in Bangalore is a reference to "Acts XIV* of 1856 and XVIII% of 1864" both of which ceased to have effect in 1871, in which year was sanctioned by the Govt. of India

"A Code of Regulations relating to the
"appointment of Municipal Commissioners
"for the Municipal limits of the Cantonment
"and the town of Bangalore respectively,
"and the management of their Municipal
"affairs, and to make better provision for
"the Police, Conservancy and improvement
"of the said Cantonment and Town, and to
"enable the said Commissioners to levy
"taxes, tolls, town duties, and rates therein"

This was, of course when Mysore was administered by the British Govt. through a Chief Commissioner.

After

* Presidency Towns Conservancy Act.

% "An Act to provide for the appointment of a Municipal Committee for the city of Lucknow" (extended to Bangalore in 1864)

present Bangalore City

25

After the "Rendition" in 1881, a new law was passed in 1883 which applied only to "The Civil and Military Station of Bangalore", called -

> "A Code of Regulations relating to the "appointment of Municipal Commissioners for "the Municipal limits of the Civil and Military "Station of Bangalore and the management of its "Municipal affairs, and to make better provisio "for the Police, conservancy and improvement of "the said Civil and Military Station and to "enable the said Commissioners to levy taxes "tolls, town duties, and rates therein".

This was revised and re-enacted in 1897. The law as re-enacted is the existing municipal law, whose short title is "The Bangalore Municipal Law, 1897".

26

It does not appear that there was a Cantonment Board at any time.

27

As regards proposals to have a Cantonment Board, reference is invited to pp 17 - 18 of the note, dated the 5th October 1903, in file 371 of 1893; also to page 12 of the note.

28

The draft of the D. O to the Govt. of India is submitted retyped.

C. V. Ramanathan.
10. 6. 31

Secretary. Again I have to regret delay in submitting a file. The draft D. O. may now issue? The Head Clerk says he wants it resubmit. His noting from paras 24-28 So may I have the file back & I will resubmit it this week.

President

The simple thing may have
been. There is no hurry
now. We should not
have proceeded as yet
for a couple of
months. Let offices
be carefully informed
the matter put
up as complete
work by the Engineer.

16.6.

(R) S.N.3

Issued No.4332, dated the 17th June, 1931

1 17.

S.N4. Letter No.1792/31, dated the 15th June, 1931, from Mr. G.H.Cooke.

S.N.5 Letter No.1795/31, dated the 15th June,1931, from Mr.R.S.Milton

31 May be filed. (For precedent, please see S.N.7 and 8 of File 486/28 and and notes at para.5)

C V R
19.6.31

A.S.

20.6.31

S.N.6. Letter No.2146/31, dated the 18th July 1931, from Mr. R. S. Milton.

S.N.7. Letter No.2147/31, dated the 18th July 1931, from Mr. G. H. Cooke.

---

32 May be filed after perusal.

C V R
20.7.31

A.S.

20.7.31

Read.

20.7

S. No. 8.

From the Government of India, No. D- 1541-I/31

Dated 15-8-1931.

The connected previous correspondence is at S. Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

With reference to the P. U. C. and the Notes at paragraphs 22 and 30, the following Note (which should have been put up long ago) is submitted under three heads:-

A:- Genesis of the Municipal Commission.

B:- Proposals, if any, for the appointment of a Cantonment Board.

C:- What reply may now be given to the Municipal Commission.

---0---

A:- Genesis of the Municipal Commission.

The earliest reference traceable regarding Municipal administration in Bangalore is a reference to "Acts XIV of 1856 and XVIII of 1864" both of which ceased to have effect in 1871, in which year was sanctioned by the Government of India:))---

> " A Code of Regulations relating to the appoint-
> "ment of Municipal Commissioners for the Municipal
> "limits of the Cantonment and the town of Banga-
> "lore respectively, and the management of their
> "Municipal affairs, and to make better provision
> " for the Police, Conservancy and improvement of
> "the said Cantonment and Town, and to enable the
> "said Commissioners to levy taxes, tolls, town
> " duties, and rates therein."

This was, of course when Mysore was administered by the British Government, through a Chief Commissioner. The law was framed pn the basis of the Madras Municipal Act in force in 1871.

In connection with the Rendition of the State to the Native Rule, the question of separating the C. & M. Station from the City was considered, and after the Rendition

Bandition in 1881, a New Law was passed in 1883, which applied only to "The Civil and Military Station of Bangalore" --- called

> "A Code of Regulations relating to the appointment
> " of Municipal Commissioners for the Municipal
> "limits of the Civil and Military Station of Ban-
> "galore and the management of its municipal af-
> "fairs, and to make better provision for the
> "Police, conservancy and improvement of the said
> "Civil and Military Station and to enable the
> "said Commissioners to levy taxes, tolls, town
> "duties and rates therein."

This law was revised and re-enacted in 1897. The law as re-enacted is the existing Municipal Law, whose short title is "The Bangalore Municipal Law--1897."

B:- Proposals, if any, for the appointment of a Cantonment Board.

It would appear that there was never a Cantonment Board here.

In 1903, there was, however, an enquiry by the Military authorities as to the possibility and advantage of forming the whole or part of the C. & M. Station into a Cantonment and extending to it the Cantonment Code. The reply given to the Military authorities will be found in SW 4 371-99. Paragraph 3 of the reply ran as follows:--

> " In these circumstances Sir Donald Robertson con-
> " siders that the Cantonment Act or some analogous
> " provision should either be extended to the whole
> " Station or not at all. If the South of India
> " can be induced to recognize that their interest
> " in the maintenance of Bangalore consists mainly
> " in its importance from a military point of view,
> " a fairly strong case might apparently be made out
> " in favour of the change from a Civil to a purely
> " Military Station. The Resident recognizes how-
> " ever that the proposal is likely to occasion
> " serious public opposition.."

Reference is invited in particular to the following Notes then written in connection with this question.

> " With regard to the proposed introduction of the
> " Cantonment Act into the Assigned Tract, Sir James Gordon
> " said:--
>
> " It would seem that there is nothing to be gained
> " by the introduction of the Act, while some of
> " its provisions might be very inconvenient.
> " The Act is intended for Military Cantonments
> " in British India. Bangalore is not, and has
> " never been, merely a Military Cantonment, and
> " is not, and is not intended to be, part of Bri-
> " tish India. After the transfer it will remain
> " as heretofore, as it was correctly described
> " by the Government of India in a letter dated
> " 30th December 1858, " a station in a foreign
> " territory." As it will not be a part of Bri-
> " tish India, the Governor-General in Council,
> " administering its Government on behalf of the
> " Maharaja, will be able to make such laws and
> " rules for its good Government as may appear
> " expedient, while the introduction of the Act
> " in question will not convey any higher sanction
> " than the notification of the Government of India
> " and would bring with it provisions unsuitable
> " and uncalled for. It would appear wise then to
> " let matters remain as they are, and to let the

" territory included within the Bangalore
" Station be administered by Civil Officers
" of the British Government, guided by such
" laws and rules as are at present in force,
" or may hereafter be introduced by the Governor-
" General in Council, administering the Government
" on behalf of the Maharaja, who will still
" retain ~~his~~ sovereignty over the territory,
" though, by the terms of the Sannad, he re-
" nounces the exercise of jurisdiction within it."

" x x The Government of India concurred
" in Sir James Gordon's opinion that the Canton-
" ment Act of 1880 need not be introduced into
" the Assigned Tract and accepted his proposals
" for the determination of the assigned lands
" and also for the administration of the Station."

x x x x x x x

"The application of the Cantonment Act is no doubt beset with difficulties. The question requires much elaboration of details. The Act has to be amplified and amended before it can be extended to the Station. It does not seem necessary to consider these points at the present stage. In any case it seems undesirable, if not impracticable, to form a portion of the Station into a Cantonment entirely separate from the Municipality. Buildings and lands exclusively used for military purposes have been excluded from the operation of the Municipal Law, and at present the Military manage these portions without any statutory authority and from funds placed at their disposal from Imperial revenues. If their jurisdiction be extended the cost of the administration will be increased without any corresponding increase in revenues."

para. 6 on page 12 ante. (F.D. 371/1890)

P.T.O.

C:- What reply may be given to the Municipal Commission.

From the previous correspondence at S. Nos. 1 & 2 it may be seen that some reply is due to the Municipal Commission, as a further communication has been promised in due course. Further, if a reply, more or less on the lines of the Government of India's demi-official reply is given to the Municipal Commission, it may go to prevent the Municipal Commission from passing a similar Resolution on a future occasion of the kind; otherwise the Commission may persist in their recommendation. A reply may perhaps be given stating that it is understood that in the interests of the Troops stationed in Bangalore, the Government of India consider it essential to retain an Official President of the Municipal Commission. From the Military point of view, it would seem therefore advisable that the Vice-President of the Commission should perform the duties of President only on occasions analogous to those on which a Vice President of a Cantonment Board may do so-- Vide proviso to Sub Section (1) of Section 20 of the Cantonments Act (II of 1924). The Commissioners may perhaps be informed that in these circumstances and in the peculiar conditions of Bangalore which are unique in India, the Resident regrets that a proposal of the kind contained in the Commission's Resolution is not acceptable.

Submitted for orders.

M.N. Ramanathan
12.12.31
Secretary.

Para (37) ante.

The file is re-submitted.

The note appears to be correct and complete.

(From para 33).

K.D. Nayar
31.12.31.

Secretary.

Draft. Please see the
end of para 36 of Dutta.
[illegible]

A draft as directed by Secretary is put up.

I however venture respectfully to submit that no further communication need be sent to the Municipal Commission at present. Their resolution of the 22nd May 1931 referred only to the appointment of the Vice President during ~~during~~ Mr. Cooke's absence on leave. To this we ~~have given~~ gave a suitable reply (in letter No.4106 dated the 9th June 1931) that the time available for consideration of the question ~~is~~ was too short. They are apparently satisfied with it and have not troubled to move further in the matter and remind us about the promised further communication. We may well leave it at that. By a further communication on the lines of para 36 we may be raising a storm in the midst of the present calm.

S.M.I. 244/31 (P)

S.M.-2 (Q)

The file may be submitted to the Hon'ble the Resident for orders and for perusal of the notes in paras 33 to 36 with reference to his note in para 30.

V.V. Iyengar
for 1-12.

I spoke to Cooke. He is in favour of no reply at present. When I see the question is again raised he will ask us for SOI's decision. Meanwhile he may let him see POC confidentially.

Resident 9/1

Yes

7.1

Lea Mynter.

11.1.32

Secy to.

U.O. No 128

9th January 1932

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.
BANGALORE.
12 JAN. 1932
Regd. No. 366

CORRESPONDENCE.

H. O.
14 2,000—17—9—1930.

No. 1574/31
Enc.1.

CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.
MUNICIPAL OFFICE.

DATED 22nd May 1931.

From

G. H. COOKE ESQ, M. C., I. C. S.,

President, Municipal Commission,
C. & M. Station, BANGALORE.

1548/27 *To*

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

SIR,

Subject:- Filling up the vacancy caused in the office of President, Municipal Commission, by the appointment of the Vice-President, when the District Magistrate proceeds on a month's privilege leave.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, for consideration by the Hon'ble the Resident and submission to the Government of India for early orders a copy of the resolution passed at an emergent (ordinary) meeting of the Municipal Commission held on the 22nd May 1931, on the above subject.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

President, M. C.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.
BANGALORE.
23 MAY 1931
No. 5219
No. 244/31

MVL.

22/5/31

Municipal Commission's resolution dated the 22nd May 1931.

Emergent-(ordinary) Meeting.

1. Proposition by Mr. G. G. Jeremiah, Municipal Commissioner, No.V Division, to request the Governor General-in-Council to direct that the Vice-President shall hold the office of President during the District Magistrate's absence on privilege leave and thus manifest the confidence that the Government has in the Commission etc.

Resolved:-

(1.) that the Commission learns that Mr. G. H. Cooke, M.C., I.C.S. the District Magistrate of the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, and ex-officio President of the Municipal Commission, will be proceeding on a month's privilege leave in June 1931, and begs that the vacancy caused in the office of President, Municipal Commission, be filled by the Vice-President, by the Governor General-in-Council exercising the powers vested in him under Section 16 of the Bangalore Municipal Law and directing that the Vice-President be appointed President for the above said period.

2. that the Commission considers, that since under Section 17, it has been given the privilege of electing a Vice-President and that whenever the District Magistrate had proceeded on casual leave it has been the practice for the Vice-President to carry on the duties of the President, the same procedure should be followed when the latter proceeds on privilege leave.

3. that it is anticipated that the Commissioner of Police of this Station will be directed to carry on the duties of District Magistrate during the absence of the permanent incumbent on privilege leave as heretofore, and that he will act as President of the Municipal Commission as well.

4. that this Council is of opinion that such an arrangement will not be satisfactory to the taxpayer nor to the general public, particularly as the Acting Commissioner of Police has quite recently relieved the permanent Commissioner who has proceeded on leave.

5. that it has always been the policy of the Government that non-official members should be given the post of the President of

Municipal Councils, with the object of associating non-officials in the responsible administration of local bodies.

(6.) that the Commission, therefore, begs His Excellency the Governor General-in-Council, will be pleased to direct that the Vice-President shall hold the office of President during the District Magistrate's absence on privilege leave and thus manifest the confidence that the Government has in the Commission.

(7.) that the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore be requested to kindly forward the above resolution to His Excellency the Viceroy with his recommendation to the granting of the prayer of the Commission.

(Sd). G. H. Cooke,
President, M. C.

" Copy. "

MVL.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary to the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore, by designation and not by name.

No. 4106

From

Captain G. Kirkbride,

SECRETARY to the HON'BLE THE RESIDENT in MYSORE.

To

The President, Municipal Commission,

Civil & Military Station, Bangalore.

Dated Bangalore, 8th June 1931.

Subject.

Vacancy in the Office of President, Municipal Commission.

Sir,

S.N 1 (I)

With reference to your letter No. 1574/31, dated the 22nd May, 1931, I am directed to say that the Hon'ble the Resident regrets that time will not permit the Government of India being addressed on this occasion, the case emphatically being one which it would be improper to expect the Government of India to deal with by telegram. The request of the Commission will however receive the very careful and sympathetic consideration of the Hon'ble the Resident and a further communication will be sent you in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G

o/c

Captain.

SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT.

BJ

9.6.31

DEPARTMENT. File No. 13

BRANCH. Serial No.

Draft Letter / Memorandum / Telegram

Class for telegrams: Ordinary / Express / Urgent* / Priority / Clear Line† (*Only for Foreign Telegrams. †Not for Foreign Telegrams.)

To be issued on | Issued on

1st Reminder

2nd Reminder

3rd Reminder

Heading :

Case or Diary No.

If post copy of telegram required

Date of despatch of above

List of enclosures

(Code word for telegrams.)

No. 4632 Dated 17th June 1931.

From

The Resident in Mysore.

To

The Hon'ble Sir Charles Watson,
K.C.I.E., C.S.I.
Political Secretary to
the Govt. of India,
Foreign and Political Department
Simla.

GPA

D. O. My dear Sir Charles,

The Civil and Military Station of Bangalore although a large Military Station is administered not by a Cantonment Board but by a Municipal Commission of which, under the law at present in force, the District Magistrate is the President. This Officer is proceeding on short leave and the Commission has raised the question of his place being taken by the Vice President who is a non-official Indian. The present practice is that the Commissioner of Police is appointed District Magistrate on such occasions and is therefore ipso facto the President of the Commission.

The request of the Commission, though on the face of it eminently reasonable and is in consonance with the modern trend of Government policy raises important issues and may be the thin end of the wedge for a demand for a permanent non-official President:- a

demand

16.6.31

S. 5.

MG(PG--81--7½(G))DCF—(0·343)—11·7·29—50,000 Pads.

demand, which in the peculiar conditions of Bangalore, it might not be possible to ~~accede~~ accede to. I am, therefore, replying to the effect that time does not permit of a case being prepared for the consideration of Government on this occasion, but the matter will be carefully gone into and a further communication sent to the Commission in due course. To enable me to implement this promise I would be grateful if information could very kindly be obtained for me from the Army Department or elsewhere as to whether conditions such as exist in Bangalore are to be found in any other Cantonment in India. I am inclined to believe that the position of the Civil & Military Station is unique. Bangalore is not only a military station containing a very large number of British soldiers, but it is the home of many retired Europeans and pensioners, so that its interests may be reasonably described as predominantly European. The prosperity of the Station is chiefly dependent upon the European population. I believe that in the big cantonments in India the administration is run by a Cantonment Board of which the Senior Military Officer is the President assisted by an Executive Officer and certain number of nominated Indian gentlemen and that there is no instance of an area circumstanced as is the Civil and Military Station being administered by a Municipal Commission, still less by one with a non-official President. I would be

be glad to be told if this view is correct, and further, if possible on the data now given, be informed whether in the view of the Army Department there is prima facie any objection to a Municipal Commission in an area such as the Bangalore Civil & Military Station being presided over by a non-official President.

Yours Sincerely,
Sd/- R.C. Burke

Rec'd 8/6/16

H. O.
14 2,000—17—9—1930.

4

No. 1792/31

CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.
MUNICIPAL OFFICE.
DATED 15 June 1931.

From

G. H. COOKE ESQ, M. C., I. C. S.,
President, Municipal Commission,
C. & M. Station, BANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

SIR,

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Hon'ble the Resident, that I have on the afternoon of this day the 15th June 1931 made over charge of the office of the President of the Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, to Mr. R. S. Milton.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

15.6.31.

President, M. C.

MVL.

15/6/31

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.
BANGALORE.
17 JUNE 1931
Regd. No. 5914
Dy. 24.6.31.

15/6

15.6.31

H. O.
14 2,000—17—9—1930.

(5)

No. 1795/31

CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.
MUNICIPAL OFFICE.
DATED 15th June 1931.

From

R. S. Milton, Esq.,
~~C. H. COOKE, ESQ., M. C., I. C. S.,~~
President, Municipal Commission,
C. & M. Station, BANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

SIR,

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Hon'ble the Resident, that I have on the afternoon of this day the 15th June 1931 assumed charge of the office of the President of the Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, from Mr. G. H. Cooke, M.C., I.C.S.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.
BANGALORE.
17 JUNE 1931
Regd. No. 5913.
P. D. No. 244-31

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R. S. Milton

President, M. C.

MVL.

15/6/31

15/6/31

15/6

H. O.
14
2,000—17—9—1930.

16

No. 2146/31

CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.
MUNICIPAL OFFICE.

DATED 18th July 1931.

From

R. S. Milton, Esq.,
~~G. H. COOKE Esq., M. C., I. C. S.,~~

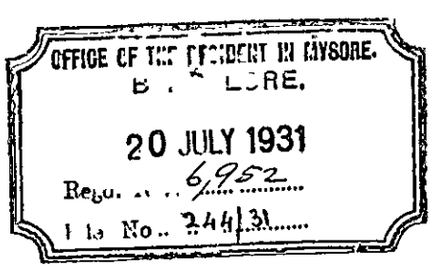
President, Municipal Commission,
C. & M. Station, BANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

SIR,

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Hon'ble the Resident, that I have on the forenoon of this day the 18th July 1931 made over charge of the office of the President of the Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, to Mr. G. H. Cooke, M.C., I.C.S.



I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R. S. Milton

President, M. C.

MVL.

18/7/31

18/7

H. O.
14
2,000—17—9—1930.

17

No. 2147/31

CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.
MUNICIPAL OFFICE.
DATED 18th July 1931.

From

G. H. COOKE ESQ, M. C.; I. C. S.,

President, Municipal Commission,
C. & M. Station, BANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

SIR,

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Hon'ble the Resident, that I have on the forenoon of this day the 18th July 1931 assumed charge of the office of the President of the Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, from Mr. R. S. Milton.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

18.7.31
President, M. C.

18/7/31

18/7

MVL.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.
BANGALORE.
20 JULY 1931
Page 6953
Ltr No. 244/31

D.O.No. D.1541-I/31.

Foreign and Political Department,
S i m l a ;
The 15th August 1931.

Municipal Commission of Civil and
Military Station of Bangalore.
__oOo__

Dear Colonel Burke

Please refer to your demi-official letter to Sir Charles Watson No. 4332, dated the 17th June 1931, in which you have asked for information in regard to the following points :-

(1) whether peculiar conditions such as exist in the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore are to be found in any other Cantonment in India.

(2) whether in the view of the Army Department there is prima facie any objection to a Municipal Commission in an area such as the Bangalore Civil and Military Station being presided over by a non-official President.

2. In reply I am desired to say that :

(1) the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore is the only mixed civil and military municipal institution of the kind in India.

(2) in the interests of the troops, it is essential to retain an official President of the Commission. From the military point

OFFICE OF THE RECIDENT IN MYSORE.
BANGALORE.
20 AUG. 1931
Regd. No. 7993

point of view it would seem advisable that the Vice-President at Bangalore should perform the duties of President only on occasions analogous to those on which a Vice-President of a Cantonment Board may do so - vide proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 20 of the Cantonments Act (II of 1924). The Government of India are not therefore prepared to agree to the appointment of a non-official President of the Bangalore Municipal Commission.

Yours sincerely

C.M. Metcalfe

To

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Colonel R.J.C. Burke,

Resident in Mysore.

(with I.S.C.)